

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Currently amended) A carrying bag for a brass instrument, comprising:
 - a shell having an interior and made of flexible material, said shell having opposite end portions;
 - a transport member secured to the shell; and
 - a stiffening frame made of a firm material and arranged in the interior of the shell at one of the end portions adjacent to a bell of a brass instrument without projecting into the bell.
2. (Currently amended) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the transport member is comprises a handle.
3. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is made of plastic.
4. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is made of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer (ABS).
5. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is made of propylene.
6. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is made of nylon.

7. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is made of light metal.
8. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is made of aluminum.
9. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is made of wood.
10. (Currently amended) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is attached interiorly to the shell by a connecting process selected from the group consisting of gluing, riveting, screwing, and Velcro-fastening a loop-and-hook fastener.
11. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the frame is clamped interiorly to the one end portion.
12. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the stiffening frame is a separate component of closed configuration.
13. (Currently amended) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the stiffening frame includes ~~a ring-shaped closed~~ an end piece constructed in the form of a ring with an opening, and a rim portion attached about the end piece and pointing toward the interior of the shell for externally encircling at least a front portion of the bell.

14. (Currently amended) The carrying bag of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the end piece has a width of about 2 cm to 6 cm, and the rim portion has a width of about 2 cm to 6 cm.
15. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 13, wherein the end piece includes a straight bottom strip and a U-shaped arcuate strip placed onto the bottom strip.
16. (Currently amended) The carrying bag of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the end piece has a circular configuration.
17. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the shell is comprised of three layers.
18. (Currently amended) The carrying bag of claim [[1]] 17, wherein the frame rests against an inner one of the three layers.
19. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 18, and further comprising a padding between the frame and the bell of the brass instrument.
20. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 17, wherein the shell includes an outer layer of textile material, a middle layer made of upholstery material, and an inner layer made of a lining or cotton cloth.

21. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 20, wherein the upholstery material is foam.

22. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the one end portion extends in a vertical direction, when the brass instrument is received in the interior of the shell and carried.

23. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the one end portion extends at an inclination with respect to a vertical, when the brass instrument is received in the interior of the shell and carried.

24. (Original) The carrying bag of claim 1, wherein the one end portion is substantially planar.

25. (New) In combination:

a carrying bag including a shell having an interior and made of flexible material, said shell having opposite end portions, a transport member secured to the shell, and a stiffening frame made of a firm material and arranged in the interior of the shell at one of the end portions; and

a brass instrument having a bell, said brass instrument being placed in the carrying bag with the bell positioned adjacent to the stiffening frame, without the stiffening frame projecting into the bell.